THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Okay. I adjourn the House for lunch till 4 o'clock.

The House then adjourn for lunch at fifty-eight minutes past two of the clock.

THE HOUSE REASSEMBLED AFTER LUNCH AT ONE MINUTE PAST FOUR OF THE CLOCK, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR.

Re. Taking up patents ordinance for discussion

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MR. S. B. CHAVAN.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE AND THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Madam, I have a small submission to make. I request specially our friends in the Opposition. We should be able to take up the Patents Ordinance which, in fact, is going to be converted into a Bill. This is an international commitment that we have entered into. It is but natural that things which have international repercussions, should get priority over other Government business. We should also take into account what we agreed to at the international level. After all, it is a question of other Bills and the Patents Bill. Normally, we give preference to an Ordinance being converted into a Bill and then take up the regular business. All the three are Government business only and among these, we would like to give preference to the Ordinance which is now being proposed to be converted into a Bill. I would also request hon. Deputy Chairperson that she may fix up the time tomorrow, immediately after the Question Hour, for voting so that we are able to finish this business well before time.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, we all know that all the Ordinances promulgated by the Government are to expire on the 26th or 24th.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The 24th.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It is 24th, as far as the House is concerned. We do not see as to why the Patents Ordinance should take precedence over other Ordinances. He has talked of international commitments. Well, I think, he has entered into international commitments unilaterally, It is for him to take care of those commitments. We are not privy to that. Everybody in India and outside knew that he WTO was to come into existance on the first of January. The date was absolutely well anticipated. Yet, the Parliament was kept in the dark. Behind the back of Parliament, they brought forward an Ordinance and tried to confront Parliament, the people of India, with a *fait accompli*. Now they have surreptitiously brought it as a supplementary business which I strongly protest. I suggest that the business, as listed, be conformed to.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I just want to inform... *(Interruptions)*

DR. DIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will permit you. I just want to take the House into confidence because I never like to do anything, —by 'I', I mean 'the Chair'—the Chair never likes to do anything without taking the House into confidence. We have take up all the Ordinance which we had to discuss. You have been very halpful in getting all the Ordinances passed. We passed an Ordinance today also. The thing is that we wanted to get this particular Bill listed in yesterday's Agenda itself. But, as you perhaps know, as regards an ordinance, we have get a message

[Dr. Biplab Das Gupta]

from the President that it should be taken up by the House. It did not come till last night and it did not come in the early morning also. That is why I went to find out what happened. It is because we received the message late that a supplementary list of business has been given. This is one reason for it. Now, as Chavan Saheb has said, we are not going to pass it today itself but we will only take it up today. Whoever is present today will discuss it now. Whoever is not present today will discuss it tomorrow. As Chavan Saheb has said we will fix a definite time for voting by which time everybody can complete his speech. Nobody, at least not the Chair or the Secretariat, is involved in the delay. I am giving you an explanation as to why the Supplementary List of Business came late.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, throughout this week, we have been co-operating with the Government. We have allowed a number of Ordinances; we have allowed a number of Bills to be passed. Even this afternoon, a Bill was proposed and we unanimously accepted the Bill. We sought certain clarifications; we got them and we allowed the Bill to be passed. We have been very, very co-operative until now. The point is, Madam, in the morning, we first look at the Agenda paper and we organise our work in a certain way on that basis. We give instructions to our Members and they follow such instructions. So, our work is organised on the basis of the Agenda paper which we receive in the morning. When we saw in the morning that the Patents Act was not coming up, we gave priority to the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1994. One of our Members, who was supposed to be in Durgapur, was asked to be present here to participate in the discussion. Otherwise, he would have left Delhi. So, we were thinking that this thing would be finished first. Suddenly, without giving any indication, we are told that the Order Paper is changing and that the Patents Act would be discussed. Moreover, somebody from our party, who was to speak on this, is not present here at the moment... (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Let him speak tomorrow.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: But he must also listen to others. If I am to participate in a discussion, I must listen to others. It is not possible, Madam, for anybody to speak without listening to others. Now, as far as international commitment is concerned, as Mr. Jaipal Reddy said, he is absolutely right that it is the Government's business. They have entered into an international agreement without taking the House into confidence, without placing before the House the draft of the WTO Agreement that was signed. So, it is an international commitment which has been entered into by the Government unilaterally without taking the House into confidence. So, why should we be rushing, changing our order, in order to accommodate them? I would strongly suggest, let us avoid this rush. We can now take up the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill. It is 4 o'clock now and we can finish it by, say, 6 o'clock. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH (Bihar): Then we have the Special Mentions.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: We can start the discussion on the Patents Bill tomorrow and we can assure that until the discussion is over, we will be sitting here, even if we are required to sit till late in the night. But please don't discuss it today. From 2.30 p.m. tomorrow, let us discuss this item exclusively. Don't keep any other item on the agenda.

उपसभापति : कृष्णलाल जी, आप क्या कह रहे हैं ?

श्री कृष्ण लाल शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदया, दो चीजें मैं आपके ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं। एक तो यह कि मैंने काउंटर से भी पूछा था। अभी तक मेंबर्स को बिल भी सर्क्यूलेट नहीं हुआ है और अभी अवेलेबिल भी नहीं है हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में। अब यह इतना कहना कि हमने टेबिल आफ दी हाउस पर रख दिया है, यह काफी नहीं है। दूसरी चीज है कि कल जो लिस्ट आफ बिजनेस बना था, उसके मुताबिक यह बिल लिस्ट में नहीं था। यह एक क्रूसियल बिल है जिस पर हमारी अपनी एक ओपिनियन है और यह ओपिनियन होने के बाद यहां पर हमारे सब लोगों का रहना जरूरी है जिनको इनीसिएट करना है। लेकिन हम यह कहें कि जो लोग हैं वह कर लें और जो लोग नहीं हैं वह कल कर लेंगे, तो मैं नहीं समझ पा रहा हूं कि अगर इस बिल को कल इंटरोड्यूस किया जायेगा, तो क्या अन्तर पड़ेगा। क्योंकि आफटर ऑल हम कल वोट करेंगे, कल इसको कांक्लूड करेंगे, कल फिनिश करेंगे। आज हम उसको फिनिश नहीं कर रहे हैं। तो कल अगर इस पर वोट करना है तो कल क्यों नहीं इंटरोड्यूस किया जाये ? आज इंटरोड्यूज करने में क्या कंपलशन है, हमारी समझ में नहीं आ रहा है? इसलिये हमारी रिक्वेस्ट यह है कि जो बिजनेस पहले से लिस्ट किया हुआ है उसको आज खत्म किया जाये और कल इस बिल को टेकअप किया जाये। हमारे सब इंपोर्टेंट लोग इसमें रहना चाहते हैं। हमारी पार्टी के दोनों ही लोग जिनको स्ट्रेट्यूटरी रिजोल्यूशन मूव करना है, इस समय हाउस में नहीं है। इस तरह वह अपना चांस लूज करेंगे। तो लिस्ट आफ बिजनेस में सडनली लाकर आप इसको आज जबर्दस्ती मत कराइये। हमारी रिक्वेस्ट है कि आप गवर्नमेंट को और मिनिस्टर साहब को कहिये कि इसको कल इंटरोडयूज करें। आज का बिजनेस जो लिस्ट किया गया है उसको खत्म किया जाये और कल इसको टेकअप किया जाये। धन्यवाद।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल): मैडम, अकोर्डिंग टू रूल्स आफ प्रोसीजर्स, गवर्नमेंट अपने प्रिफ्रेंस ठीक कर सकती है, प्रिसिडेंस ठीक कर सकती है। लेकिन हमारे हाउस में यह कंवेंशन है—

†[شری محمد سلیم : میڈم ۔ اکورڈنگ تو رولس آف پروسیجرس- گورنمنٹ اپنے پریفرنس ٹھیک کر سکتی ہے پریسیڈنس ٹھیک کر سکتی ہے- لیکن ہمارے ہاوس میں یہ کنونشن ہے ...]

The practice is that before the House is adjourned for lunch, either a Supplementary List of Business is circulated or an announcement is made by the Chair to the effect that after the lunch hour the House will take up such and such business.

Today we sat late in the afternoon. The lunch hour was delayed. But there was no announcement till 3.00 p.m. And all of a sudden, the Supplementary List of Business was circulated in the Lobby, five minutes before the House reassembled after lunch. This particular Bill is a disputed one. We have been debating this matter for the last two years. It is not such a simple Bill that the Leader of the House stands up and seeks our cooperation. Everybody knows the views of the Opposition on this Bill.

I want to know whether the permission of the Chairman was obtained, when the Government wrote to the Chairman and when a formal letter by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was addressed to the Chairman because without the formal permission of the Chairman, this cannot be circulated. I would like to know whether such a permission was obtained by the Government and when such a permission was obtained from the Chairman.

†[] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

As Sharmaji has said, we offered our cooperation to the Government. There are five or six Ordinances and the Government wanted to get them passed. Each Bill was allotted four hours' time for discussion which mean that we have to pass one each everyday. We cooperated, we sat late and even disposed of two Bills in one day. We are getting them passed one by one. You see the sequence. Even today, you made a request that the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1994 should be passed before 4.30 p.m. because the Finance Minister would have to go before 4.30 p.m. We agreed and sat till 3.00 p.m. Our lunch was delayed. Now you are saying, "Let us start the discussion and the voting will take place tomorrow". Why is there such a hurry? You know that in the other House there was a lot of pandemonium on this. We do not want to disturb the proceedings of the House. Let us take up the normal business. You can introduce this tomorrow when the Bill is properly circulated and then the fate of the Bill will ultimately be decided by the House, and tomorrow. Let it be tomorrow. Don't show any anxiety.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As far as the procedure is concerned, it is absolutely taken care of because in the absence of the Chairman, I take the responsibility. I am here all the time, whether I am in the Chair or I am in my chamber.

As soon as the message came from the President, that thing was taken care of. I will never do anything in a way which will violate the procedure laid down by the Rajya Sabha or the way we have been conducting our business. That is why I waited and did not get it listed till we got the message and till I was sure and I saw the letter. Then only I signed it and the Supplementary List was issued.

As far as the discussion is concerned, it is Government's request and it is for them to see as to what should be discussed. It is according to their priority and, as Chavan Sahib said, this is their priority and they expected that the House will be cooperative. Today, we did not take up the Special Mentions. Everybody was cooperative. I thank you on behalf of the Finance Minister actually because he had some commitment. So, you cooperated. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: (Maharashtra): Madam, even at the lunch time recess, there was no mention of it. There was a clear discussion in the morning. The finance Minister desired and also made a request as to whether we could take it up and the hon. Member agreed that we should take up the Special Mentions later. There is a printed List of Business and just after the lunch we gathered, you suddenly wanted to bring in an important Bill on which Members would have to speak. This is certainly.. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I want to tell you two things, two aspects of it. (*Interruptions*). I just want to explain. Let us not mix up the two issues. One issue, is getting a Supplementary List, which is in order. (*Interruptions*). Just a minute. Discussing it, not discussing it, is entirely in the hands of the House. I am not saying anything (*Interruptions*)

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : (राजस्थान) : वह तो मान लिया लेकिन प्रिसिडेंस किया जाये, इसको, यह तो अभी तक तय नहीं किया है । ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Madam, there is a Statutory Resolution for which I am listed at No. 1 to speak. Without any notice, I am not ready to do that. (*Interruptions*). How can I speak when I am not ready? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, as far as the Rules of Business are concerned, you have already rightly observed that the permission was given by the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But nobody is disputing that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, even in regard to giving precedence to a Bill over another Bill that has been listed, under Rule 25, sub rule 4, the Chairman can give permission. So, when the permission is given by the Chairman for a Bill being taken up in precedence over the other Bill that has been listed, the Government is within its right to bring in the Bill. Since the Chairman has permitted, they cannot raise the issue that it is not in order. They cannot say that the listed Business has not been properly put. They cannot say that the other Bill has been listed and so this cannot be taken up. You cannot raise that issue here because it is according to the procedure... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: What about the convention? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: We are following the convention.... ... (*Interruptions*)..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What happened? I was talking to the Minister. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Narayanasamy, ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam. I am quoting the rules only. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please.. Please don't get agitated. Nobody is forcing anything on anybody when I am presiding. Nobody when I am presiding, will force any Member to take up an issue against the will of the House. I can assure you. But, I would hate if there is a heated discussion even before we start the discussion on a subject which is a matter of controversy to some Members and to others. It is a request. I know it is a sensitive Matter. It is a request from the Leader of the House and if the House so agrees, then we can take up; otherwise I can find a *via-media* that tomorrow, soon after the Question Hour, we will take it up, discuss it and finish it.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA (West Bengal): No, Madam.... (*Interruptions*) ...What is happening now... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ashok Mitra, there is no point in getting angry with me... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: What about the thing that happened in the afternoon?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMPI (Tamil Nadu): Madam, we are not getting angry with you... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): We will discuss it tomorrow morning, What is the problem? (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ashok Mitra, you can say it tomorrow. To your heart's content, whatever you want to speak on the subject you can speak tomorrow. But, today, why unnecessarily we have an argument for something which we have already agreed to? We will take it up tomorrow. ...(*Interruptions*)...नारायण सामी जी, आप बैठ जाओ। I think, when you get up that makes Mr. Mitra angry. Salimji please sit down...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Madam, the heat was created in the House on account of an unwarrnted observation made by my esteemed colleague, Mr. Narayanasamy.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Still he is your esteemed friend?...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: We are not challenging... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What did he say?...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I quoted the rule only .. *(Interruptions)*.... ..

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Madam Deputy Chairperson, I went to the Notice Office yesterday evening and asked for a copy of the Bill. They said, "It can't be made available right now. When the massage comes, when we receive the message, it will be printed tonight." I didn't get the copy of the Bill today morning also. When the Members have not got the copy of the Bill how can we discuss it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will see that the copies are supplied.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Unless the copy of the Bill is provided we can't discuss it.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, may I request the Leader of the House not to spring any surprise on us in future, because this is not going to establish good relationship. The problem is this: If these kinds of surprises are spruing on us, again we will shout and force you to retreat. That is not the proper way of functioning. Whatever is to be discussed that should be there on the paper. If you want to really have an ordered discussion, discuss it with the leaders of the other parties, take them into confidence. It was not done. You don't even show the courtesy of talking to the leaders of the parties and seeking their support. You don't even do that. Generally speaking, whenever such changes are made, usually a meeting is arranged in the Chamber of the Chairman and there we agree to certain things. Even that courtesy was not shown to the Opposition this time. It was done very unfortunately. I am happy that you are doing this now.

उपसभापति : कल भी जीरो करना है क्या ? आज स्पेशल मेंशन कर रहे हैं ...

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : जीरो ऑवर तो हमारा प्रिविलेज है। Madam, take it after the Zero Hour tomorrow.

उपसभापति : प्रिविलेज छोड़ दो..। इतने अच्छे माहौल में हम लोग दो-तीन दिन में काम कर रहे हैं।... (व्यवधान)

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल : यह आप नारायणसामी जी से पूछिये .

उपसभापति : मैं नारायणसामी जी को छुट्टी पर भेज दूंगी।

एक माननीय सदस्य : उनकी छुट्टी तभी होती है, जब वह चेयर पर होते ।

उपसभापति : मैं उन्हें चेयर पर भेज दूंगी।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Kindly ask him to come only for voting.. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will keep him busy with tea and coffee in my room. That is the easiest way.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam, I want to make one suggestion. If it is taken tomorrow, there should not be the Zero Hour, immediately after the Question Hour.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. We will discuss it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): What is he trying to say? We cannot see what the Government is going to do *(Interruptions)*.

AN. HON. MEMBER: You are putting conditions! *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MD. SALIM: You could not have started the discussion on that *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, Mr. Salim. We could have started discussion on other things. You have something else! I do not know (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, we agree to a proposal. This should be the first item in the Zero Hour. Nothing is going to happen (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope all of you would remain heroes and not zeroes.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Madam, may I seek one clarification? Yesterday, I watched the TV. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Government, was seeking deferment of the passage of the Bill in the Lok Sabha so as to consult the leaders of the Opposition. Now, may I know the latest position in the Government, whether they want to consult the leaders of the Rajya Sabha too with regard to certain amendments in the Patent Bill? Because it was strongly debated and delayed in the Lok Sabha yesterday. (*Interruptions*) will they change their position now? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Parliamentary Affairs, Minister, Mr. Shukla, Shri Satish Agarwal is putting some question to you. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Narayanasamy, do not let me get angry because I have decided not to get angry. It is my resolution for this Session. The question is not put to you. I wish you become the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and suffer some pain. But, the question is put to Mr. Shukla. Mr. Minister, Shri Agarwal said that he saw you saying that you wanted to have some consultations with the leaders of the Opposition parties in the Lok Sabha for some amendments or withdrawal or whatever it is, for this Bill. Are you going to discuss this with the leaders of the Opposition parties of the Rajya Sabha or not? This is what he wants to find out from you. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) Madam, we do wish to consult leaders of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha too. We can have consultations either here or in the Committee rooms or in the Lobby. If any of the Members is kind enough to drop in my Chamber, we can discuss there. We certainly do want to discuss with them and tell them how important it is to pass this Bill tomorrow.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: We are not coming to your Chamber for anything. This can be discussed jointly. Why do you want it in your Chamber? (*Interruptions*) It is very unfortunate (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What is this? This is not the way (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MD. SALIM: See how the Minister is reacting! (*Interruptions*)

DR.BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Do not you want to discuss it here?

AN HON. MEMBER: The Government is not at all concerned about the sensitivity involved (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Shukla might have indifferently used the expression. I do not think he really meant it. I think, any discussion with the Government on this Bill will not be of much avail. The gap between both of us on the question is too wide. I would prefer a settlement here in the House.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: What is the harm in discussing this matter? This has been our usual practice to discuss matters whenever there is a difference of opinion and

[Shri Vidyacharan Shukla]

to try to understand each other's viewpoints. Ultimately, of course, the settlement has to be arrived at here in the House only. But, discussion itself should be most welcome. As I said, I am not saying that it should be discussed in a particular place. It can be anywhere, wherever it is convenient to the hon. Members (*Interruptions*).

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is the standard practice for the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to invite the leaders of the various parties on different occasions for consultations. It is a standard practice for the Minister of Parliamentry Affairs to invite the leaders on various occasions for consultation. If you really had consultations in mind, you had ample time to invite us and to seek our opinion on this. You have not bothered to do that, you have not cared to do that. You have been very casual in your approach. You are asking us to walk into your room for consultations. Is this the way you want to treat us? (*Interruptions*) Why don't you fix a time? Why don't you fix a place?

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Mr. Dasgupta, not only that, if the hon. Minister was serious about discussing and consulting the leaders of the Opposition, then a sudded introduction of this Bill at this moment, immediately after the lunch hour was over, does not indicate any willingness or any intention of discussion. Discussion should be prior to any such move that you make. After making a move what is there to be discussed? Then as Shri Jaipal Reddy said, we shall have discussion in the House itself.

श्री कृष्णचन्द्र शर्मा : कम से कम आप यह तो इच्छा व्यक्त कर सकते थे कि यहां चेयरमैन के चेम्बर में अपोजीशन के लीडार कोई टाइम फिक्स करके आपसे डिसकशन करें । यह तो आप इच्छा व्यक्त कर ही सकते थे । मगर आप यह आफर दे रहे है कि अपोजीशन के लोग मेरे चेम्बर में आकर जब चाहे बात कर सकते हैं, it is not fair.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I was probably not able to convey my feelings properly or my offer in a proper way. I did not want the hon. Members to walk into my Chamber at all. I said the consultations could be held here in the Lobby or we can hold it in my Chamber. I discussed it yesterday..... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him finish. Let us have some courtesies of the House. Let him finish what he wants to say.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Madam, to hold discussions in the Chairman's Chamber will not be a proper thing to do because we cannot hold discussion in the Chairman's Chamber in his absense.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I offer my Chamber for dicussions if you want. You can go and discuss it now while we discuss here some other Bill, because now we have deferred it will tomorrow. There is ample time. If there is any clarification you want still from the Government, you can have it. It does not debar you from discussing it in the House or giving your viewpoints in the House. If offer you my room and tea and coffee along with it

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: It is too late in the day.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: No meaningful purpose can be served in discussing it, because if there was a serious and honest intention to discuss it, the opportunity could have been provided earlier. But now just dropping into his Chamber or dropping the minister himself out of the Cabinet is a different matter. But there is no point in discussing it. It is for the leaders to decide. As

Shri Jaipal Reddy has rightly said, there is no point, as the gap is so wide. Let us not waste the time of either the hon. Minister who is to be dropped or of the leaders of the Opposition.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): May I just add? The Leader of the House is here. Since morning we have been meeting the leaders of the parties, one by one. Quite a number of them will bear us out. The Leader of House has been meeting them one by one. We tried to contact the Leader of the Opposition also but he is in Bhopal. Today he is not here. But with those leaders who were available since the morning, one by one, consultations have been started by the Leader of the House and we have been talking. We have met a number of leaders who are here since the morning. So it is not fair to say that we have not met anyone.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Have they agreed with you?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Agreed or not agreed, that is not the point.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I am not talking about agreement; I am talking about consultations. (*Interruptions*)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: We were not given any invitation. You consult with some and not with others (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anyway, we have got Special Mentions. Whether we agree or we disagree with each other, still we meet in the House. So we can meet in the Chamber. We may disagree in the Chamber, we may disagree in the House, but there is not harm. This is the spirit of democracy, whether we agree or disagree.

So, let us not have that kind of a feeling that if we disagree, we should not meet, and if we agree, then only we should meet.

I think, now we can have the Special Mentions and then we will go ahead with the other business.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

HAILSTORM IN RAJASTHAN

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान) : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्रीय सरकार का ध्यान एक अत्यन्त महत्व के विषय की ओर ले जाना चाहता हूं । जनवरी, फरवरी में जो वर्षा हुई थी और लगभग देश के बहुत बड़े भाग में हुई थी, इससे हिन्दुस्तान के कृषि उत्पादन के लिए बहुत अच्छी आशा बंधी थी । लेकिन मार्च के महीने में देश के कई हिस्सों में बहुत जबरदस्त ओलावृष्टि हुई । मैं अपनी बात राजस्थान पर सीमित रखना चाहता हूं । राजस्थान के 12 जिलों में भारी नुक्सान हुआ और इतने बड़े बड़े ओले पड़े जिनको डेढ़ इंच से ढाई इंच तक मोटा कहा जा सकता है । यह 12 जिले हैं —झालावाड़, टोंक, भीलवाड़ा, राजमसंद, झुनझुनू, दौसा, जयपुर, अलवर, बांसवाड़ा, चित्तौड़, उदयपुर और अजमेर । इन जिलों में कई हजार हैक्टेयर खड़ी फसलें नष्ट हुई हैं । गेहूं की फसलें नष्ट हुई हैं । इसके साथ साथ कैश क्राप को भी नुक्सान पहुंचा है जैसे सरसों, चना और जीरा । इसी के साथ एक इलाका ऐसा भी है जहां बहुत कीमती अफीम की खेती होती है । फसलों का इतना नुक्सान होने के साथ साथ कई मकान नष्ट हुये हैं । उनके खपरैल टूट गये हैं और लोग-बाग बेघर हो गये हैं । केन्द्रीय सरकार की तरफ से जरूरी है कि वहां कोई केन्द्रीय टीम जाकर इस सारी बरबादी को देखने की कोशिश करे । जो पुराने कायदे कानून हैं 1952 के जमाने में उसमे अधिकतम एक हैक्टेयर पर एक हजार रुपया हर्जाना दिया जा सकता है । मैं समझता हूं कि केन्द्रीय सरकार को इस पर विचार करना चाहिये कि इस कानून को किस रूप में संशोधन करें और जिस तरह का नुक्सान वहां हुआ है उसके आधार पर किसानों